



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|

10/565,726

01/24/2006

Takashi Yoshimine

OMY0052

1933

23353 7590 09/15/2008  
RADER FISHMAN & GRAUER PLLC  
LION BUILDING  
1233 20TH STREET N.W., SUITE 501  
WASHINGTON, DC 20036

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, TAN QUANG

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3661

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

09/15/2008

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

|                              |                        |                     |  |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | <b>Application No.</b> | <b>Applicant(s)</b> |  |
|                              | 10/565,726             | YOSHIMINE, TAKASHI  |  |
|                              | <b>Examiner</b>        | <b>Art Unit</b>     |  |
|                              | TAN Q. NGUYEN          | 3661                |  |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 January 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 9-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4-8 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 January 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)            | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1/24/2006</u> .   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

## **DETAIL ACTION**

### ***Notice to Applicant(s)***

1. This application has been examined. Claims 1-16 are pending.
2. The prior art submitted on January 24, 2006 has been considered.
3. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. § 119, which have been placed of record in the file.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-3 and 9-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Muramatsu et al. (JP-2000-205891) in view of Doi (US-6,542,811) and Tanaka (JP-2003-070514).
6. With respect to claim 1, Muramatsu et al. disclose a guide equipment for the blind which includes a mount device for providing communicating to the user (figures 3-5), a portable device includes means for storing map information, means for acquiring user position, means for setting user's destination, means for searching the map information for the set destination and generating a route, and means for informing the user the route (see at least figure 1 and the related text).

7. Muramatus et al. do not disclose the mount device includes a camera for obtaining the forward viewing. However, such feature is well known in the art at the time the invention was made to and shown in at least figure 12 of the Doi reference. It would have been obvious to an ordinary skill in the art to incorporate such teaching of Doi into the system of Muramatus et al. in order to provide more information of the forward view in order to improve the navigation system.

8. Muramatus et al. also does not disclose a means for obtaining picture information of the user's surroundings and providing the route with vibration. However, Tanaka suggest such portable device with cameras for detecting the user's surrounding and further provide the vibrator for alerting the user as shown in at least figures 11-19, 23, 25 and the related text. It would have been obvious to an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate such teachings of Tanaka into the combined system of Muramatsu et al. and Doi in order to further improve the navigation for the blind by taking both the images information from the portable device and from the head mounted to obtain the user's surrounding in great detail, thus improving the navigation system.

9. With respect to claim 2, Muramatsu et al. also disclose the sound output (voice guidance output) for the user (see at least figure 1, item 33)

10. With respect to claim 3, Tanaka further disclose a sensor for detecting obstacle (see at least figure 18).

11. With respect to claims 10 and 11, Tanaka further discloses a plurality of vibrations buttons that vibrate the user's fingers as shown in at least figure 15 and the related text).

12. With respect to claims 13 and 14, Muramatsu et al. do not disclose the power generation means between the mount device and the portable device. However, it

Art Unit: 3661

would have been obvious that those device need power to power up the unit and the power generation means, either solar or mechanical is well known in the art at the time the invention was made.

13. With respect to claims 9, 12, 15 and 16, the limitations of these claims have been noted in the rejections above. They are therefore considered rejected as set forth above.

14. Claims 4-8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

### ***Conclusion***

15. Claims 1-3 and 9-16 are rejected. Claims 4-8 are objected.

16. The following references are cited as being of general interest: Ban et al. (4,712,003), Schrader (5,807,111), Burgess et al. (6,011,754), Langevin et al. (6,055,048), and Havey et al. (7,308,314).

17. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to examiner Tan Q. Nguyen, whose telephone number is (571) 272-6966. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 5:30 AM-4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Black, can be reached on (571) 272-6956.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to the Official Fax Center: (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

Art Unit: 3661

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/tqn  
September 19, 2008

**/TAN QUANG NGUYEN/**  
*Primary Examiner*  
*Art Unit 3661*